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PORTO RICAN LETTER

The Smallest of Our Island Possessions and Its Principal Product—History of the Development and Present Status of the Irrigation Service of Porto Rico

By Mrs. F. E. Kenyon.

For the facts and figures in this letter I am indebted to a copy of "The Porto Rico Progress," San Juan, and to an article prepared for the "Cornell Civil Engineer" by W. L. Squire and F. H. Knapp.

Porto Rico, the smallest of our island possessions, is ninety-five miles long by thirty-five miles wide, and is the fourth in size in the West Indies.

The principal product of Porto Rico is cane sugar, of which it is one of the chief producers in the world. It is for the benefit of this industry that the Porto Rico Irrigation project has been carried out.

The cultivation of cane is expensive as compared with other crops. It is a high type of intensive culture. The sugar centrals employ many experts and their management generally is scientific. The planters appreciate the value of water to a crop of cane, for frequent and prolonged drenchings that cut short or ruined completely the entire sugar crop throughout the whole south side of the island kept the question constantly in mind.

The available cane land of the island is a very small percentage of the entire area and consists only of a narrow coastal plain for the most part in the south, east and west borders. The area irrigated by the project is located in the central southern part; it is a strip of land about forty miles long by two miles wide.

Long periods of drought are common as many as six months have passed without rain. The dry season extends from June to September. In general, most of the rain falls in the months of October and May. During the season of prevailing rains the rainfall is often heavy and of short duration. The heaviest on the entire island was recorded at one of the mountain stations when twenty three inches fell in twenty-three hours.

The need of the irrigation system on the south side of the island and not on the north side is explained by the fact that, because of the topography generally the north side has plenty of rain.

The interior of the island is mountainous. It is traversed by a main divide of about 25,000 feet elevation running east and west a short distance from the southern coast throughout its entire length. There are secondary

divides farther north, which are parallel to it. Porto Rico is on the Zone of the Trade Winds which furnish it moisture; because of their prevailing north east and easterly direction most of their moisture is precipitated on the northern slope. Thus the mean annual rainfall in the northern part of the island is in places from 100 to 125 inches and more; while in the southern part it averages about 45 inches and in many places below 40 inches, and with a minimum yearly rainfall recorded at Aguirre in 1907 of 21 inches.

Irrigation was resorted to for many years but the supply of water was very insufficient. The need of a large centralized system to conserve the flood waters that were going to waste was generally recognized. During Spanish possession several attempts were made to develop such a system, but failed. Finally in 1907 under American administration the legislature passed an appropriation and a study of the possibilities was made.

The project of furnishing water to make more fertile and certain of production 35,000 acres of tillable land on the south side of the island has been accomplished by the Porto Rico Irrigation Service, under the direction of Mr. V. D. Menendez, Commissioner of the Interior. J. W. Beardsley class '91 College of C. E. Cornell University was Chief Engineer. Many of those employed in the Irrigation Service were compelled to live in the greatest discomfort; but they stuck to the job and overcame legions of obstacles. The entire work was most efficiently and economically managed. No public or private enterprise ever undertaken in Porto Rico not even the construction of the highways has caused to be distributed in a like period of time so great a sum of money as that spent for wages on the irrigation work.

The entire system completed represents an outlay of something over \$4,500,000. This money was provided by the sale of 4 per cent 30-year bonds. The entire cost of both construction and operation to be paid by the land irrigated through the collection of water tolls. The Insular Government has not supplied any money spent in the irrigation project, but it has guaranteed the redemption of the bonds and this guarantee was made in order to obtain credit for its entire length. There are secondary

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LEMING-KENYON WEDDING

Friends of Frank S. Kenyon will be interested in the following account of the marriage of this Wauseon boy, which occurred last Thursday evening, taken from The Daily Republican of Cape Girardeau, Mo., issue of Friday December 1st:

The wedding of Miss Rose Leming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Leming, to Mr. Frank S. Kenyon last night at Centenary Methodist Church was one of the most brilliant social events of the season.

The ceremony was performed at 8:30 o'clock by Dr. J. C. Handy. Miss Flint sang a solo before the ceremony, also Miss McClelland, who sang "The Wedding Day", written by the bridegroom for the occasion.

The bride entered on the arm of her father. She was beautifully gowned in ivory satin, combined with tulle and silver lace. The long court train was of tulle and satin. The veil, worn Juliette fashion, was held to the train with sprays of orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of roses and lilies of the valley. Mrs. Paul Leming served her sister as matron of honor and was gowned in white tulle over silver with silver trimming. The train was lined with the same shade of red as the large bunch of Russel roses which she carried.

The bridesmaids Misses Ruth Glenn, Leona Cunningham and Marie Weber, were gowned alike in white tulle with silver trimmings, and carried large bunches of Russel roses.

Little Miss Frances Leming, a sister of the bride, acted as flower girl. She was daintily gowned in white silk and carried a large basket of the same roses as the brides. Master Edward Rozier Leming, the bride's nephew, served as ring bearer and was dressed in a white corduroy.

The groom was attended by his brother, Mr. Darby Kenyon, as best man. Fletcher Rhodes, William Leming and Griffith McCarthy were the groomsmen and Lister Comer, Paul Leming and Elmer Leming were ushers.

The church was artistically decorated with ferns, southern smilax and white chrysanthemums.

After the ceremony a small reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, to which only the families and a few intimate friends were invited. The house was beautifully decorated in green and white. The dining room was done in Ophelia roses and white tulle.

While the reception was at its height the bride couple slipped away and disappeared. It is said they were driven to Illinois to take the Cotton Belt train for somewhere.

Among those from out of town who attended the wedding were: Mrs. F. L. S. Darby and Mr. Frank E. Kenyon, Wauseon, Ohio; Mr. Earnest Comer, Indianapolis; Mr. Ralph Leming, Comersville, Indiana; Mrs. A. R. Ponder, San Antonio, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rozier, Farmington; Mrs. A. R. Byrd, Jr., New York City; Miss Ruth Kelsa, St. Louis; Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Bull, St. Louis; Darby Kenyon, Anna Arbor, Mich.; Griffith McCarthy, St. Louis.

COUNTY AFFAIRS

Cases in Probate Court—Marriage Licenses—Real Estate Transfers—Orders Drawn on Treasury—New Cases in Common Pleas Court.

Probate Court.

Estate of David B. Williams, first partial account confirmed. Application to probate will of John Setzler, deceased filed and hearing set for December 12th, 1916, one o'clock p. m. Notice issued. J. A. Matern as administrator vs. Vern Laser, et al, case dismissed.

Estate of C. E. Brailey, deceased, statement in lieu of final account confirmed and administrator discharged.

Estate of Eunice A. Dennis, first partial account confirmed. Application to probate will of John Setzler, deceased filed and hearing set for December 12th, 1916, one o'clock p. m. Notice issued. J. A. Matern as administrator vs. Vern Laser, et al, case dismissed.

Estate of Frederick Wetzel, first partial account filed, hearing January 1, 1917.

Estate of Jacob Fagley, first and final account to sell real estate at private sale filed. Order of sale issued. Sale reported and confirmed. Deed ordered.

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JOINT MEETING

Pomona Grange of Fulton County Holds Final Meeting of Year 1916 In Wauseon—Booster Club Entertains at Luncheon—Enjoyable Afternoon Session.

One of the happiest events of the year 1916 in Wauseon was the meeting of Fulton County Pomona Grange in Wauseon last Friday.

The forenoon session was private, devoted to the ritualistic work and business of the Grange.

There were six of the subordinate Granges of the county represented and seventy-five members in attendance; two new members were received.

Owing to the removal of Deputy Master, E. P. Ames to Columbus, M. G. Amund was elected Deputy Master.

A committee consisting of O. O. Wiers, W. E. Patterson and M. G. Amund was appointed to prepare a program for the meetings of the Grange for next year.

The Grange members were the guests of the Wauseon Boosters Club at luncheon which was served in Pythian Castle Hall at noon by the ladies.

At one o'clock the Grangers and Boosters Club gathered in the High School Auditorium for the afternoon session. Mr. F. H. Fernald presiding and Harmon Gasche as secretary. The session was opened by a song by the Grange after which Miss Irma Sharp, Lecturer of the County Grange took charge and a very interesting and profitable program followed.

Mr. D. W. Williams read a most interesting paper on "The Grange and the Community." He indicated a realization that the success of one means success for the other. Mr. Fernald was brief in his remarks but they were very much to the point. First he would remove the grouch, then he would cut out the practice of shifting to another town.

Harmon Gasche gave a humorous recitation in his own inimitable style. On which of course pleased everybody and prepared them for the weightier addresses, which followed:

"The Relation of the Business Man and Farmer to the Community" was the next topic and Mr. C. A. Knapp was the first speaker on this topic. Mr. Knapp threw light on the topic by emphasizing the definition of the word relation. He spoke of the community as that in which the farmers and business men were mutually interest-

CITY COUNCIL

City Fathers Co-operate with Business Men to Provide Night Watchmen—Mausoleum Project in Progress—Contract for Fire Apparatus Let.

Monday evening's session of the council was a long and busy one; the first item taken under consideration after the routine business of the council had been disposed of was the matter of night watchmen for the village streets. The Boosters Club had previously taken up the matter and in view of the many daring burglaries which have occurred in this vicinity lately it was deemed wise by the business men to provide for some sort of protection for the town. As an emergency measure the city fathers engaged two watchmen to patrol the town nights and a committee waited upon the council Monday evening to ask them to co-operate in maintaining night watchmen. Mr. Howard Lyon, acting as spokesman for this committee, presented the matter to the council and this body immediately resolved itself, by common consent into a committee of the whole to consider how they might meet the request; the question being not as to expediency but of finance. After a canvass of the financial affairs of the village, and consultation with the city solicitor the council informed the committee that they could and would furnish \$50.00 per month for the next four months for this purpose. Plans were later perfected whereby the business men of the town are to contribute the balance necessary to maintain a night watch; the funds raised to be paid to the council who will employ and direct the watchmen and pay them for their services. This movement seems to be absolutely necessary under present conditions and many citizens will sleep easier from now on, knowing that their property has some protection during the hours when auto-handits and yeggs get in their work.

Mr. Sheets of Van Wert with whom the council and cemetery trustees have negotiations pending, appeared before the council to submit specifications for the mausoleum which he proposes to erect in the Wauseon cemetery, the plans were received and will be submitted to an engineer for investigation and report.

The next item on the docket was the matter of letting contract for motor truck and fire apparatus for the fire department. Mr. Howe reported results of investigation of machines on which he had been receiving. A representative of a Lima Manufacturing Company was present to present the merits of the apparatus offered by his firm. The members of the council and fire chief Overmeyer went over the points of each machine offered and finally the council awarded

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THIS WAY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT THINGS

Only 14 Xmas Shopping Days Available

Gifty

Gift Things

The Ruling Tendency of Our Displays for This Xmas Season

Ladies' and Misses' Xmas Coats

Here you will find assortments that may aid you in making Xmas selections of COATS, that are of prominent QUALITY, yet the prices of these most beautifully modeled Coats are very modest. These qualifications along with the practicability of a gift of this sort will be a determining factor in bringing you here.

\$12.00 to \$30.00

Bath Robes—Very Choice Xmas Selections

A ward robe is not complete until you have a Bath Robe, for they add much to your comfort and convenience. Our line this season is especially attractive. Very pretty patterns from

\$2.50 to \$4.00

New Leather Bags

This season's arrivals of new leather bags represent the most in style and value, thus qualifying them as appropriate Xmas gifts. Our Prices like our Quality will surely please.

\$1.00 to \$10.00

Where Quality and Confidence Meet

The Spencer-Edgar-Vollmer Company
The Community's Exclusive Dry Goods Service

THE CHRISTMAS STORE

Fancy Xmas Towel Sets

For a reasonable suggestion these attractive towel sets, either in pink or blue trim are very timely. Each set is composed of the three pieces and prepared in separate boxes at the special price of

89 Cents

Art Linen and Pieces

For those clever women who are now making dainty Xmas Gifts, we have a variety of special assortments in this department, that are very interesting either in stamped pieces or for crocheting. Special Christmas Prices.

The Big Line of Christmas Handkerchiefs

Full array of Kerchiefs for all in the daintiest designs at the most moderate prices.

Silk Hosiery

prepared in specially designed Xmas Boxes, go to make most favorable gifts; see our beautiful assortment at

\$1.25 a pair

LET our store be of service to you this Christmas Time. Whether you purchase or not—we want to show you our Christmas offerings.

You will want to come here for

Xmas Pictures

A great display of the Xmas kinds. 25c to \$4.00

Fern Stands and Pedestals

Our offering for the Xmas trade will surely please you.

50c to \$4.50

Vac Sweepers and Carpet Sweepers

So useful and so appreciated in every home. \$2 to \$8.50

Why Not a Music Cabinet

this Xmas?

Look over our offerings.

\$8.50 to \$15.00

Buy Mirrors

This Christmas A very useful gift.

25c to \$10.00

IVES-PIKE COMPANY

Christmas Gifts of Beauty and Usefulness

Rocking Chairs

Of all presents these are of the best. We are showing about 75 styles, surely will please you.

\$1.25 to \$20.00

Library Tables

Buy one this Christmas. We are displaying a fine line at such reasonable prices.

\$9.00 to \$30.00

Davenports and Couches

For the Christmas trade. Fine parlor pieces by day and comfortable beds for night. Buy one this

Christmas.

\$12.50 to \$45.00

Cedar and Matting Chests

Buy one for her this Christmas. A present that is most acceptable.

\$2.40 to \$15.00

Foot Stools and Slipper Boxes

For your husband or gentleman friend. We are showing them in black, tan and green upholstered.

\$1.00 to \$3.75

For The Little Tots

Our Store Offers Many Excellent Gifts

Rockers - \$1.25 to \$3.50

High Chairs - \$1.25 to \$4.00

Metal Beds - \$5.50 to \$11.00

Push Carts - 89c to \$13.50

Carriages - \$12.50 to \$25.00

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Ives-Pike Co. - Furniture and Undertaking